

Myositis Support and Understanding Association, Inc. Launches Myositis Patient Financial Assistance Program

This program adds to the ever-growing list of services MSU offers to patients to provide day-to-day support to help patients cope with Myositis.

LINCOLN, DELAWARE, UNITED STATES, July 14, 2016

[/EINPresswire.com/](http://EINPresswire.com/) -- [Myositis](#) Support and Understanding Association, Inc.

(MSU) launches its long-awaited Myositis

Patient Financial Assistance Program in celebration of its one-year anniversary as a non-profit. MSU, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded on July 30, 2015 for patients dealing with Myositis, a rare and debilitating neuromuscular disease, affecting an estimated 50,000-75,000 people in the United States. This program adds to the ever-growing list of services MSU offers to patients to provide day-to-day support to help patients cope with Myositis.



I am ecstatic MSU is providing funds to ease myositis patients' financial stress. Patients can apply for assistance to travel for medical care, pay medical bills, or pay emergency household expenses!"

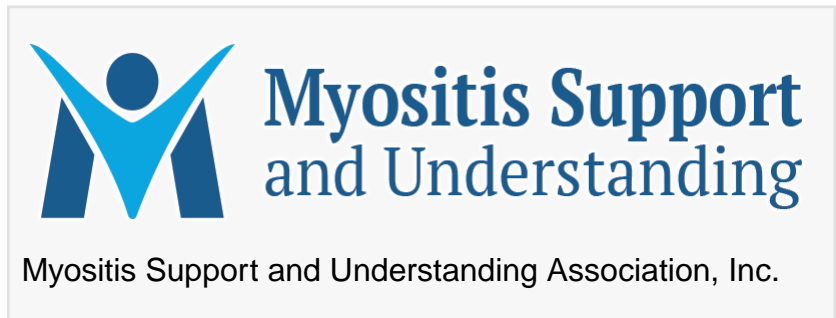
Emily Filmore, Vice President

Emily Filmore, Vice President of MSU says, "As a patient who is personally dealing with how my Myositis affects every aspect of our personal finances, from medical bills, to traveling for specialist visits, to lost career opportunities, to the effects I have seen on my husband's career, to money we have lost indirectly due to life's modifications, I am ecstatic to be a part of starting this program to assist other patients in the financial difficulties of the Myositis journey. My hope is that we can ease some of the logistical burdens and allow them to

concentrate on what really matters, managing their health."

Due to the rarity of the disease, and the fact that many doctors may only see one patient, if any, with Myositis in their careers, patients with Myositis and those suspected of having Myositis often face difficulties in procuring an expedient diagnosis and adequate treatment. Furthermore, patients with chronic illnesses often face financial difficulties due to ongoing medical bills, lost wages, and extraneous expenses indirectly related to healthcare such as home modifications. Therefore, MSU has worked tirelessly to raise funds to establish this Myositis Patient Financial Assistance Program. Through it, MSU will provide funds to patients for travel to see known myositis experts for diagnosis and treatment, help with medical expenses, and help with emergency household expenses incurred due to the overwhelming costs of living with a chronic illness. This new addition to MSU's support programs is part of their ongoing #MyositisLIFE campaign to improve day-to-day lives of Myositis patients.

[Financial assistance applications](#) are now available to patients suspected of or having one of the



subtypes of Myositis (Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies), including Polymyositis, Dermatomyositis, Inclusion Body Myositis, Juvenile Dermatomyositis, and Juvenile Polymyositis.

MSU hopes through these funds to provide much needed financial relief to patients whose lives are already stressed due to illness, allowing them to more fully concentrate on their health. Patients who qualify will be eligible for a maximum of \$1000 per year, based on a number of factors outlined on the application and on our Financial Assistance webpage. Applications are available at UnderstandingMyositis.org/financialassistance.

Jerry Williams, the Founder and President of MSU says, "It is exciting to see what we as a non-profit organization have accomplished in just under one year. Financial assistance was one of our main priorities to help alleviate financial stress for Myositis patients so they can focus on better health. I believe this speaks volumes to the fact that MSU is an all [volunteer-managed organization](#) made up entirely of Myositis patients and caregivers, providing us a unique view of what is needed in the Myositis community."

MSU's mission is: Myositis Support and Understanding (MSU) is dedicated to improving the lives of Myositis patients through public policy, self-advocacy programs, need-based financial assistance for medical-related expenses, and to provide support and education to patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, the general public, and legislators about Myositis.

MSU will foster direct involvement with other Myositis organizations to help promote treatment innovation and research with our collective eyes on a cure and provide financial support to organizations that share similar visions.

MSU was founded by Myositis patients, for Myositis patients, and operates all of its programs through the work of an all-volunteer Board of Directors and member volunteers, and the generous donations of members, friends, and supporters. All donations made within the United States are tax-deductible under IRS Tax Code Section 501(c)(3). To make your tax-deductible donation visit

The graphic features a central shield with a dark background and white text. The shield is surrounded by a decorative border of blue stars and faint images of US dollar bills. The text inside the shield reads: "MSU is proud to announce the Myositis Patient Financial Assistance Program! Patients can apply for help with: • Travel expenses for diagnosis/ treatment with Myositis experts • Medical Expenses • Emergency Household Expenses Proving, once again, that MSU is here to help patients with the day-to-day realities of #MyositisLIFE". Below the shield, there is a small text box: "Award limits & qualifications apply, please see application for details." and the URL "understandingmyositis.org/financialassistance". To the right of the shield is the MSU logo, a stylized blue figure with arms raised, and the text "Myositis Support and Understanding".

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understandingmyositis.org/financialassistance

Myositis Support and Understanding

The new Myositis Patient Financial Assistance Program

Financial Assistance Application

Myositis Support and Understanding

Applicant name _____ Date of Application ____/____/____

Application Process

Patients/applicants are asked to fill out this application and provide a letter from a doctor verifying diagnosis of one of the three types of myositis, or suspected diagnosis of one of the three types, and/or ongoing testing necessitating travel to the myositis specialists. Other paperwork includes bank statements, medical insurance information, powers of attorney if applying on some one else's behalf, etc.

Requests for assistance are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are subject to funding availability as well as eligibility and financial need. Patients are eligible to receive a maximum of \$1000 per year from MSU.

Types of Financial Assistance Requested

Travel Expenses are defined as airfare, gas, hotel, taxi, Uber, bus fare, train fare, and/or food for travel more than 100 miles away from home to consult with a Myositis Specialist for diagnosis, treatment, and testing.

Medical Bills are defined as bills payable for medical diagnosis, treatment, and care to pharmacies (or formularies) for prescriptions, accredited hospitals, labs, Licensed Medical Doctors, Doctors of Osteopathy, urgent care centers, and other like institutions.

Emergency Household/Living Expenses are defined as mortgage payments, rents, utility payments, childcare, health insurance premiums/COBRA, car expenses, and/or food expenses. These funds are intended to help patients who have recently had to quit working and are in the process of applying for disability payments either through work or SSD/SSDI.

MSU Financial Assistance Program

UnderstandingMyositis.org/donate.

To learn more about Myositis and its subtypes, please visit UnderstandingMyositis.org.

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